

THE
BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXXI.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1844.

No. 18.

JEWISH HYGIENE.

By William Clay Wallace, M.D., New York.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.—Concluded from page 316.]

It may be objected to what has been advanced, that, it is said, consumption and hydrophobia are rarely witnessed in warm Eastern climates; but I may reply, we have no proper data on the subject from scientific men, and the gospel was given for all. In this country hydrophobia is usually seen during the hottest weather, and we have in elephantiasis an example that tuberculous disease may prevail in the West Indies; besides, all the phenomena of physiology and pathology concur in showing that excess of nourishment is a frequent cause of disease. If we again adopt Liebig's comparison of the lungs to a furnace, we find that tubercles must accumulate at the upper portion, not far from the main current of the entering air; as the incombustible matters congregate at the corners of a stove, although in the latter case the air usually enters at the lower surface.

We find that consumption is checked during pregnancy, when there is an outlet for the unconsumed material in the nourishment of the fetus. It is an extraordinary fact, first discovered by Dr. MacDonnell, that a pregnant female gives out less carbonic acid than when she is unimpregnated. Before Liebig's comparison, this could not be explained, as on the old theory it was expected that when blood for two had to be purified, an additional quantity of carbonic acid should be disengaged. The effect of fat, or other very nourishing matter, on the lungs, may be compared to resinous wood or bituminous coal on a furnace, and proper food to good and well-regulated fuel, which is consumed gradually, cleanly, and completely. To carry out the comparison, the disagreeable breath of gluttons and drunkards is the acrid, incompletely consumed smoke from resinous wood; and the sweet breath of a healthy child, where all the surplus nutrient is required for its growth, is the inodorous vapor of pure, slow-burning fuel. I had occasion to inspect the body of a young man, who, daily at dinner, would take a ladleful of grease on his steak or chicken, and take meat and much butter at breakfast and tea; and I found both the mesentery and lungs thickly studded with tubercles. It is shown by the records of the late city inspector, that more than two thirds of those who die in New York of consumption, are from Ireland; most of the

subjects, it is presumed, were of constitutions originally robust, but consumed by excess of greasy and spirituous nutriment which have more than their usual effect on systems accustomed to more wholesome diet.

As cleanliness, the purest fuel, a good current of air, and the removal of ashes, are the best methods of regulating an ordinary stove, so the purest diet, and the purest air, and if necessary aperient medicine, are found out by experiment to be the best means of preserving health. Without exercise, and without pure air, unconsumed material is apt to accumulate; as a stove burns better with a fair draft and proper removal of waste matter. Shortly after the founding of the New York Colored Orphan Asylum, consumption and other scrofulous affections were frequent among the inmates; but since the intellectual managers of the institution made proper arrangements for ventilation and exercise, the children have been remarkably healthy.

The objection, in scripture, to the blood of animals is a valid one. Being nearly assimilated to the blood of man, it passes to the lungs without affording sufficient time for a gradual and steady supply of heat; like a thrifless traveller indulging to excess at the commencement of a voyage; or like light and easily inflammable wood, which soon burns and overheats the furnace. The functions of the body are impaired; it is alternately stimulated and debilitated, and ultimately worn out. The readiness with which blood undergoes the putrefactive process is another objection to its use. By putrefaction of the bloody sticking pieces which enter into the composition of sausages, they are sometimes poisonous, just as a dissection wound poisons the arm, and frequently occasions death.

The remarks on fat and blood will, for the most part, apply to the use of alcoholic drinks. If there were no other reasons for the great mortality among prostitutes, these would be sufficient.

From the above it will be seen that scrofula may originate from fat and blood; and that it may be communicated, as in Laennec's case, or by partaking of the flesh of diseased animals, more especially when inactivity or rich diet favors its formation; as a small quantity of yeast may ferment of its own accord, and afterwards cause the fermentation of a large portion of material which is favored by warmth, inactivity, and other circumstances, to promote its action.

By the laws of Moses we are not confined to a diet exclusively vegetable, which has, of late, been much adopted by the generous young; some of whom, by depriving themselves of the enjoyments of life, have sunk to the grave, victims to the admonitions of those who would be wiser than it is written. There is a long list of the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and the beasts of the field, of which we may freely partake; yet, to show the kindness of the Divinity to his beloved people, he has interdicted certain animals because they are liable to be unwholesome, though in the scale of being they may fulfil other offices which we cannot altogether comprehend. The camel was necessary as a beast of burden, and, that it might be preserved when its services were not required, it was forbidden. The swine covers seeds with earth, and furnishes oil for light,

or for soap. The coney yields support to the carnivora for keeping in check animals, the growth of which would be too extensive. The beds of shell fish form the pages from which we read the world's history, showing that there was a period when it had a beginning, and that the books of Creation and of Revelation perfectly correspond. Although the latter was written during the infancy of science, we find that every discovery now made stamps additional value on its pages, and shows that **THE BIBLE IS NOT ONLY THE BEST CODE OF MORALS, BUT ALSO THE BEST CODE OF HEALTH.**

Duties of City Inspector.—Inasmuch as disease is more destructive than war, the enemy should also be kept without the camp, and the command of the latter confided to an officer recommended by his talents, and not by his politics; yet as long as the appointment is made in the present manner, it is vain to hope that a proper selection will be generally made. Among the last candidates, for this important office, was a gentleman of high standing in his profession, and esteemed by all who know him, for purity of heart, and integrity of purpose. Notwithstanding he had before filled the situation, in a manner more efficiently than any of his predecessors, his application was laid aside, to give the office and its emolument to an illiterate herbalist. If the nomination was made by the medical society, and the officer appointed by a board of health selected from the common council, the professions, the merchants, and mechanics, the situation would be filled by a person capable and zealous of doing his duty.

As it is considered a law, that he who sees another about to be murdered, and who does not do everything in his power to preserve him, is guilty of crime and deserving punishment; in like manner, he, who sees another about to be poisoned, and who does not endeavor to prevent it, is equally culpable. Now there are poisons, the effect of which, though not immediate, is nevertheless certain. We have enumerated poisons from the diseased flesh of animals; we shall now proceed to other materials.

2. *Milk.*—Cows which are fed on swill are liable to be consumptive, and the matter which was probably before contained in the abscesses of their lungs, has been detected in their milk. As milk of this description cannot be wholesome, the health of cows, and the quality of food with which they are supplied, should be inspected.

3. *Flour, &c.*—Grain is apt to be diseased, and should be inspected in the fields, before the morbid and healthy portions are ground up together. Wheat and rye flour, healthy, and properly certified, would deserve and obtain a premium above the ordinary market price. When made into bread, it should be ascertained that there is no mixture of plaster, or other foreign body.

4. *Soap.*—The purity of the soap which is used for our apparel or persons, should also be examined. The materials, of which it is frequently made, are so well known that it is unnecessary to give the description. The smell emanating from a manufactory is often, for the purpose of enriching a capitalist, a nuisance to an extensive neighborhood.

5. *Lead.*—Obstinate constipation, deafness, blindness, epilepsy, and other nervous symptoms, are known to be the effects of lead, which, by small doses accumulating in the system, like digitalis, &c., is a poison so insidious in its attacks, that frequently neither the physician nor the patient can tell the cause of the disease. The public should be made acquainted with what hotels are provided with water through leaden pipes, in order that they may avoid them. In bar-rooms, beer, when drawn through a leaden pipe, is sometimes turbid with oxide of lead.

6. *Syphilis.*—The poison of the disease arising from impure intercourse demands the attention of a vigilant city inspector, whose ingenuity would be exerted to diminish the evil; and to make the young more generally understand the blindness, lameness, and general rottenness it occasions.

7. *Quacks.*—If the poisons and impositions of quacks were inspected, and made known, the health of many would be preserved, and the newspapers would be freed from indecent advertisements. The mischief and impoverishment often effected on the credulous, by the folly of clergymen certifying to what they know nothing about, would then be abated.

8. *Contagion within the City.*—The localities of contagious and infectious diseases should be made known to the inspector, or penalties incurred. Free vaccination should be afforded to all, in a respectable place, where it would be considered a right, not a charity.

9. *Contagion without the City.*—This is properly the business of the health officer, and as opinions concerning quarantine laws are divided, the error, if there be one, should be on the safe side.

10. *Meat Shops and Slaughter Houses.*—According to equity it is unjust that property should be diminished in value by a nuisance on a neighboring lot. Since the corporation permitted meat shops to be opened at will, in any part of the city, the tenants of some of the adjoining properties have been obliged to remove in consequence of the disagreeable smell of decomposing flesh. Should the property be the sole possession of widows, or orphans, or obtained by a life-time's industry, it is unequal justice that it should be depreciated. Numerous instances might be related, where a lot has been purchased in a respectable neighborhood, and a slaughter house has been erected on it, for the purpose of extorting an extravagant price. Besides the putrid emanations, the noise of confined cattle is very disagreeable. I was not long ago called to the death-bed of the father of a family, which consisted of two sons and seven daughters depending on his salary for support. A fever had been induced by increased mental exertion, not only by writing for his employers during the day, but also by keeping the books of others in the evening. A single sleep might have saved his life, and restored him to health and usefulness; but the lowing of cattle near his window prevented repose. The widow, who had moved in excellent society, was left with her charge, to buffet the world as she could.

11. *Tobacco.*—“I have already had occasion repeatedly to hint my suspicion,” says Professor Mackenzie, “that one of the narcotico-acrids which custom has foolishly introduced into common use, namely, tobacco,

is a frequent cause of amaurosis. A majority of the amaurotic patients, by whom I have been consulted, have been in the habit of chewing, and still oftener of smoking tobacco, in large quantities. It is difficult, of course, to prove that blindness is owing to any one particular cause, when perhaps several causes, favorable to its production, have for a length of time been acting on the individual; and it is especially difficult to trace the operation of a poison, daily applied to the body for years, in such quantities as to produce, at a time, only a very small amount of deleterious influence, the accumulative effect being at last merely the insensibility of a certain set of nervous organs. At the same time, we are familiar with the consequences of minute portions of other poisons, which are permitted to operate for a length of time on the constitution, such as alcohol, opium, lead, arsenic, mercury, &c., and we can scarcely doubt, that a poison so deleterious as tobacco, must also produce its own peculiar effects."

"It would appear that there are two principles of activity in tobacco, an essential oil, and a peculiar proximate principle called nicotin, both of which are capable of producing death, but by very different physiological actions; the former by its effects on the brain, the latter by its influence on the heart. The essential oil is so virulent a poison, that small animals are almost instantly killed, when wounded by a needle dipped in it, or when a few drops of it are let fall upon their tongue. In the process of smoking, the oil is separated, and, being rendered empyreumatic by heat, is thus applied to the fauces in its most active state. That the regular application, in this way, of a poison of such power, perhaps five or six times daily for months or years together, should at length be productive of serious effects on the nervous system and especially on the brain, cannot surely be matter of wonder. Indeed it would be surprising if it were otherwise."

12.—*Alcoholic Drinks.*—There is something singular in the disposition of different intoxicating drinks to affect different organs; thus the habitual use of wine, even not carried to excess, will affect the ball of the great toe and occasion gout. Brandy and wine harden the liver, while gin attacks the kidneys. Besides these local effects, they all harden the brain and impair its functions, as we may observe by dropping them on a transparent nerve. Owing to their combustible ingredients not being properly assimilated by the organs of digestion, a portion of improperly-prepared matter is thrown off by the lungs, and causes a most offensive breath, just as a foul chimney sends out its effluvium to the surrounding atmosphere, when the soot is imperfectly consumed.

Conclusion.—If the majority of the people do not think proper to appoint an efficient city inspector, it should be the interest of every one, as far as he can, to protect himself, and those whom he most esteems, from invisible enemies. Meat marked by the Jewish inspector may be had at the markets, healthy milk is brought in from the country, lead and alcohol may be avoided; yet it should be remembered that the principal evil falls on the poor and the ignorant. As records show that more than two thirds of those interred have not reached their thirtieth year, there

is reason to believe that, very often, by ignorance or wilful avoidance of the laws of health, many sink to premature graves, the Alms-house is filled with the destitute, the hospitals with the afflicted, and the asylums with orphans.

TOBACCO—ITS EFFECTS IN PRODUCING CERTAIN DISEASES.

[Communicated for the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.]

IN the year 1837, my attention was called to two cases of disease in the same family. The symptoms and phenomena attending them were so similar, that it struck me at once that they had a common origin. The first was that of a young gentleman, D. W., a student of law, of a nervo-sanguine temperament. He had been a martyr to dyspepsia for two or three years. He had spent a year in the Western States, and had attended the Law Lectures at Cincinnati. While at the West, he had acute ophthalmia, which was treated by active depletion with little benefit, as his eyes, when I first saw him, were highly injected, cornea vascular and semi-opaque, and the lids granular. He applied to me for the treatment of his eyes, but what most afflicted him constitutionally was low spirits, want of resolution, and general hypochondriasis. His stomach would receive food with a good relish, but the moment he had finished his meal, a train of nervous symptoms came on, which harassed him for hours, until the stomach was empty. Acidity, cardialgia, gastralgia, palpitation of the heart, giddiness, vertigo and fulness of the head, with the most profound gloom, and, keenly alive to every feeling, he was in constant fear of death, yet tempted to commit suicide to escape from a life more intolerable than death itself. These symptoms harassed him for months, with varying degrees of intensity, when a new symptom arose, which terrified him more than all the rest. His sleep had been broken by the most horrid imagery in the shape of frightful dreams, for more than a year; but now, when the first hour of sleep came over him, he was suddenly awoke by a shock in the epigastrium which started him in great alarm from his sleep. These shocks and startings were repeated several times in the course of the night, and as often as he fell into a slumber. They were at first confined to the epigastrium, but after a few weeks the sensation was transmitted to the head, which he described as more unendurable than when confined to the epigastrium. It was followed by a sensation as if a rush of blood took place to the head, and a firm conviction in his mind that he should die with apoplexy. This impression preyed upon his mind incessantly.

I was often summoned in the night in great haste, and found him agitated, with cold sweats, palpitation, and terrible apprehensions of immediate death. A little soothing encouragement, a dose of morphine and carbonate of ammonia, would dispel his fears and quiet his agitation, and enable him to rest the remainder of the night with tolerable composure. This state of things lasted several months, during which time he was not in a condition to pursue any kind of business, and finding that medicines

only gave him temporary relief, I suggested to him that tobacco might have some agency in his complaints (as he used it freely, by smoking, chewing and snuffing), and advised him to abandon the habit. In this I was successful so far as chewing and snuffing were concerned; but he was so attached to his cigar, that it was a long time before he could be induced to leave that. I will add here, that from the time he left the habit of chewing and snuffing, his health in some measure improved, particularly the shocks and epigastric sinking. He now became satisfied that his partial abandonment of the habit had been productive of good, and renounced the habit entirely; and the nocturnal shocks and epigastric sinking, with the whole train of nervous affections, vanished as if by magic. His digestive powers gradually improved; the chronic inflammation of his eyes yielded readily to appropriate treatment; the gloom and despondency which had oppressed him as an incubus, cleared away; the nervous palpitations and rushings of blood to the head subsided, and he was able to prosecute his studies with energy, was admitted to the practice of law, and is now an able and talented member of the bar, in the possession of good health, spirits and prosperity.—The foregoing history I copy from my notes taken at the time. There were many other symptoms which are common in dyspeptic cases, and many of those described are found in every-day practice in nervous dyspeptics and hysterical habits. The sudden and complete cure of all the symptoms on leaving off the use of tobacco, was too obvious to escape the observation either of patient or physician.

I will now briefly allude to the case of a sister of the gentleman whose case I have been describing, although not occurring in the order of my notes. She was married, and the mother of two children; her age 39; dyspeptic for the last ten years; of a nervo-sanguine temperament; her youngest child 10 years of age. Suffered since her last accouchement from leucorrhœa, partial prolapsus uteri and hypochondriasis. Has smoked and snuffed tobacco for fifteen years. Eight years ago began to have shocks at the epigastrium, with a sinking sensation at the pit of the stomach, cardialgia, acid eructations, a sense of rushing of blood to the head, palpitations, sleeplessness, and startings when first falling into slumber. These kept increasing upon her, when there came on tenderness of the spine along its whole length, but more especially in the cervical and lumbar regions, rigidity of the limbs, costiveness, derangement of the cæmenia, &c. She had been under treatment for a long time, with little or no benefit. To soothe her feelings, she had taken more freely of snuff, and had smoked more often, as she fancied that it gave her temporary relief. Seeing the good effect from abandoning the use of tobacco in her brother, she made the same experiment in part herself, and with the same marked relief from many of the symptoms. The shocks at the epigastrium left her, sleep became quiet, her mind more cheerful, and the epigastric sinking, cardialgia, acidity and eructations were greatly relieved. The spine, however, required cupping and counter-irritation, and with the use of anodynes and tonics she recovered a comfortable state of health. This patient has frequently ventured upon a moderate use of tobacco since, but after using

it awhile she experiences, though in a slight degree, her old feelings, and then quickly abandons it. She is perfectly satisfied of its pernicious influence upon her constitution, and therefore is in little danger of carrying its use again to excess.

S. E., æt. 40, was in possession of good health until 1838, when he began to emaciate and grow pallid, his food did not digest well, acidity, heart-burn, gastralgia, palpitation of the heart, sinking at the pit of the stomach, and a host of nervous symptoms; gloom, hypochondria, and apprehensions of sudden death. But what most amazed him, and which filled his cup of misery full, was shocks at the epigastrium, which attacked him when first falling asleep every night. These followed him two years, and increased to such a degree that his sleep was a succession of starts, which nearly wore him out. At the end of two years they came upon him during the day. He described them as like shocks of electricity, and confined to the epigastrium. He was incapacitated from business of any kind, was weak, irresolute and desponding. Had consulted many physicians, and taken a great variety of medicines, with only temporary relief. On his giving me a history of his case, I was struck with its similarity to that of D. W., and inquired if he was not in the habit of using tobacco. He stated that he was, and had sometimes imagined that it might have some agency in producing some of his bad feelings, but had never had any physician advise him to leave it off, and in reality was too much a slave to its use to lightly make the sacrifice. Upon my assuring him that the symptoms and disease depended upon the habit, and that nothing but a complete and total abstinence from it would restore him, I extorted a promise that he would lay it aside a month at least. As he was costive, I prescribed the compound syrup of rhubarb, and directed him to call again in a month. At the end of that time I was agreeably surprised to witness the improvement in the appearance of my patient. His countenance, which had previously exhibited a sallow, pallid aspect, was now ruddy with health and strength; he had gained fifteen pounds of flesh in the time, and his strength had increased daily from the time I last saw him. But what to him was more than all the rest, the annoying shocks, with the general nervous agitation attending, had entirely left him from the third day of his abstinence from tobacco. The dyspeptic affection, the palpitation, the gloom and depression of spirits, the apprehensions of death, had vanished as if by enchantment. He had resumed his business (that of a farmer); he could now sleep quietly through the night, and get up in the morning refreshed and buoyant in spirits, and is so convinced that tobacco was the root of all his previous complaints, that it requires no advice to induce him to forever refrain from its use. This man has now the most perfect health, and has taken no medicine since the first month.

C. P., æt. 43; nervo-bilious temperament; farmer; temperate; has been a tobacco chewer for twenty years; has been dyspeptic for ten years, more or less, attended with nervous palpitation and acidity, hypochondriasis and epigastric sinking. First began to have shocks at the epigastrium in 1839, in the night on first getting asleep, which started him

up in great agitation and alarm ; was frequently obliged to get up and sit, for fear of the shocks. On his consulting me, I advised him to discontinue the use of tobacco, and prescribed no medicine. He left it off, and the shocks immediately subsided. He did not resume the use of tobacco again for eighteen months, and was healthy during the time. Being of an irresolute disposition, he resumed its use again, and in two months the shocks began with great severity. They were now felt in the chest and region of the heart—at first always in the night, but after awhile in the day-time, with a rushing of blood to the head, which would momentarily deprive him of consciousness. The shocks now took place in the head. This so terrified him that he earnestly besought me to prescribe something for him, and agreed to abide by my advice. My opinion was, that no medicine would be of the least service without a complete abandonment of tobacco. This he solemnly promised he would do. I prescribed the compound syrup of rhubarb, with the ammoniated tincture of valerian. The shocks at once left him, his sleep became quiet, his dyspeptic symptoms disappeared, his mind became calm, spirits elastic, and he was capable of working his farm. Two or three times since, he has cautiously ventured on the use of tobacco, but after a certain length of time his old feelings begin to appear ; so that it is reduced to a demonstration that tobacco was the sole cause of his former troubles. This man has increased fifteen lbs. in flesh, and his color, from being sallow and pale, is of a ruddy hue.

S. C., æt. 63 ; farmer ; robust and healthy, until four years ago, when he began to complain of epigastric sinking, sleeplessness, palpitation, irritability and nervous tremors. Shocks at the epigastrium came on at the first hour of slumber, which were repeated several times in the course of the night, and often in the morning before breakfast. Has been a tobacco chewer thirty-eight years, and a portion of the time to great excess. On his consulting me, I suggested that tobacco was the agent in all the trouble which he experienced. He said he had often suspected it, but had never had fortitude and resolution to forego its use, but agreed to make trial. The shocks immediately left him, together with all the train of nervous affections ; his sleep became calm, his strength and flesh returned, his spirits improved, and he has gained twenty pounds of flesh in three months. He has not resumed the use of tobacco. This man was temperate in all things except tobacco, neither using tea or coffee. He was sensible for years that something was wrong, but could not believe that an article in such universal use as tobacco, and one which he had used for a long series of years, could possibly cause his troubles. This, I am persuaded, is the case with hundreds, who are similarly situated.

S. J., æt. 54 ; nervous temperament ; farmer by occupation ; has been in the habit of using tobacco for ten years. It frequently has salivated him. He spits much, is emaciated, nervous and hypochondriacal. The shocks commenced about two years ago in his bowels. They came on in the night, when first getting into a drowse ; at length they came on in the day-time, with epigastric sinking, costiveness, and general

dyspepsia. I put him on the use of the compound syrup of rhei and ammoniated tincture of valerian, and at the same time he left off the use of tobacco. The shocks immediately left him, and he improved gradually, so that at the present time he is in comfortable health.

A. C., *at. 27*, is of a sanguine temperament, and robust habit; a farmer by occupation. Has chewed tobacco for four years to excess. Was taken in the summer of 1841, suddenly, with sinking at pit of stomach and faintness, which obliged him to lie down in the field. Shocks at the epigastrium came on about the same time. These were first at night, on getting asleep, but after awhile in the day-time; at these times he would suddenly break out into a profuse perspiration. His digestion was tolerably good, and his health otherwise little impaired. He says that previous to these symptoms he had used large quantities of tobacco, but never imagined that it could hurt him. I advised him to immediately discontinue its use, which he did, and the shocks and faintness left him at once and have never returned. This man took no medicine.

Rev. Mr. H., *at. 30*; of a nervo-sanguine temperament; addicted to the use of tobacco fifteen years. For many years he was troubled with epigastric sinking, and lately with shocks in the same region. He is in tolerable health in other respects, and but for the annoyance which they occasion him when first getting asleep, would not think of asking medical advice. I recommended him to quit his tobacco, which he did, and a perfect cure was the result.

J. S., *at. 40*; of a nervo-bilious temperament; followed the sea many years; commenced smoking for spitting up his food. Soon commenced chewing, and carried it to excess, often using a pound a week. Five years ago began to feel a sinking sensation at the pit of the stomach; then starting from his early slumbers, with a shock through the epigastrium and sometimes chest; a rising sensation, like an aura, to his head. Oppression at the chest great, and sudden difficulty of breathing, palpitation, choking, sudden faintings, unquiet sleep, frightful dreams, dyspepsia and hypochondriasis. From being strong, robust and resolute, he became weak, nervous and timid. In this condition he applied to me for advice. It was with much difficulty that I could persuade him to quit his tobacco, and when he attempted it he was often a backslider. But soon he perceived the good effects, and was at length induced to lay it entirely aside, and with it went all his former bad symptoms. I have since ascertained that he was somewhat addicted to the use of ardent spirits, which may have contributed in a measure to some of the complaints.

REMARKS.—I might multiply cases that have fallen under my observation, to demonstrate the fact that tobacco is capable, in certain constitutions, and under certain circumstances, of producing a specific set of phenomena which are peculiar and pathognomonic. All the symptoms are more or less attendant on dyspepsia, hysteria and hypochondriasis. But the shocks at the epigastrium are so prominent a symptom, and so uniformly left when tobacco was abandoned, as to constitute a striking peculiarity. The habitual use of any narcotic is liable to produce derangement of the digestive organs, and through that a long train of ner-

vous derangements, which baffle the skill and tire the patience of the physician. The digestion once impaired, the great nervous or ganglionic system takes on a chain of sympathies, which are often at a distance from the first organ affected.

The habitual use of tobacco, when not carried to excess, does not always produce disease, and perhaps we may say that it does not generally do so. From the nature of the substance and its peculiar narcotic properties, an individual cannot start off at once on a free and liberal use of it. Nature has so fashioned us, that when we transgress her bounds (especially in reference to tobacco) we are reminded, by nausea, of the extent we are allowed to go. If it were not for this, how many would destroy themselves before a habit could be formed, rendering its employment so safe that large quantities can be taken almost with impunity. It is the same with all narcotics. Opium, for instance, can be taken, if a habit is once established, in immense quantities, and apparently with little harm. Still, there are constitutions that have long held up under the use of narcotics, that will receive gradually and almost imperceptibly an injury which nothing can remedy so long as the pernicious habit is persisted in. This is emphatically true as regards the use of tobacco. The martyrs themselves little suspect the secret enemy that is sapping the foundations of health and life. They have been accustomed to it, perhaps, from childhood. Their grandfather, father and brothers have used it before them. They never heard a word spoken in disparagement of it, and their own inclination is a powerful advocate for the pernicious article. Perhaps, too, their physician has spoken a good word in favor of their common friend, which has done much to establish it still stronger in their good graces. They may, however, now and then have some misgivings, as they lay awake night after night, taking an inventory of their wretched feelings; but this is laid to the charge of dyspepsia, or the wear and tear of business, until finally they ascertain the true cause, or some acute malady comes to their relief, which, while it lasts, compels them to abandon (for a while at least) the article, while nature re-asserts her violated laws.

As a general rule, those who use tobacco to excess are much troubled with wakefulness; and when they do sleep, it is not "tired nature's sweet restorer," but a succession of broken slumbers, interrupted by startings and disagreeable dreams. Excessive smoking has been known to produce a state of the system in all respects similar to *delirium tremens*. Most of the narcotics, I believe, when habitually indulged in, render the sleep broken and disturbed with dreams of frightful imagery.

I am not disposed to condemn the use of tobacco in total, for I am not certain that in many constitutions and temperaments it may not be of some service, or at least, that it may not be free from harm; but in those of a nervous temperament, predisposed to dyspepsia and hypochondriasis, I am certain that it is capable of, and generally does do, a vast deal of harm, and is productive of an amount of bodily and mental suffering which few men are willing to encounter a second time. Every physician of much experience in chronic disease, cannot fail of seeing, in

some of the cases which I have attempted to sketch, a portrait of many a wretched patient, who has with eloquence and painful minuteness dwelt on his sufferings, his fears and his fancies. Such cases have generally been called dyspepsia, and have been drugged and dieted, or sent off on foreign travel, carrying in their waistcoat pocket the Pandora's box of all their woes.

A. B. SHIPMAN.

Cortlandville, N. Y., Nov. 15, 1844.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Inasmuch as some remarks made, under the above head, in the last No. of your Journal, in respect to the Medical School of Maine, are calculated to injure that institution in the public estimation, and are moreover unwarranted by the facts of the case, you will, I hope, allow me to correct the misapprehension which led to them before they have done any further injury. Of the *general* management of the Trustees of Bowdoin College in respect to their Medical School, it is not necessary that I should express either commendation or disapproval; I confine myself to the *facts* in regard to the duration of the respective courses given by the lecturers during the term; from which it will appear that the article above alluded to, does the institution no small injustice, both *comparatively* and *absolutely*.

First, it is implied that there is not another medical college in this part of the Union, of which the Professors come from the four cardinal points, "lecture fast and leave the place;" and thus the Medical School of Maine is made to appear to be "singularly" conducted. Now I had supposed it to be a fact well known to most, that there is one medical school in Massachusetts, and two in Vermont, in all of which a part, and, in some, a majority of the lecturers do not continue their respective courses through the lecture term. This is also the case with the Professor of Theory and Practice alone in the New Hampshire Medical Institution. The Medical School of Maine is not therefore "singular" even upon this showing. But—

Secondly, it is *not* the fact that, in this institution, the lecturers *do* remain a part of the term only. It has ever been a condition upon which they accepted their appointments, that they shall lecture during the *whole term*; and to this rule there has never been, so far as I can ascertain, but a single exception, for the past eight or ten years. During the last session the Professor of Theory and Practice was allowed to give his course during the first eight or nine weeks of the term. The other professors lectured, as they always have done, and still intend to do, during the whole term.

Whether, therefore, the hasty airing of halls, kindling of fires, pocketing of the fees, the fast lecturing and precipitate withdrawing, with the consequent want of acquaintance between the students and the professors, be realities, or not, in the schools I have alluded to above, those better ac-

quainted with them can judge better than I; but there is nothing of this kind at Brunswick. If the lecturers there go ahead "like a steamboat," it is not as "if in a steamboat cabin;" and they do it for the sake of accomplishing more *during* the term, and not of leaving before the end of it.

Y.

[**NOTE.**—The above communication comes from a gentleman for whom we entertain the kindest feelings of personal regard. With respect to the remarks to which he alludes, it ought not to be concealed that gentlemen of enterprise and thrift in the profession, look upon Portland and Bangor in the light of natural localities for a medical school. There, too, a marine hospital could be organized, and all the machinery put in motion, which long experience proves to be advantageous for the growth, character and convenience of a medical institution. As far inland as Brunswick, no such auxiliary apparatus can well be had, and it is probable, therefore, that the medical department of Bowdoin College could not compete, in this respect, with a rival in either of those flourishing cities. So much patronage has been bestowed, however, upon that College, by the Legislature of the State, in past years, and the library, cabinet, &c., are of such intrinsic value, that it would indeed be a sacrifice to have a rival grow up, to materially injure or to crush it. To prevent an occurrence of that sort, we have been hoping to rouse its immediate friends and legal guardians to an active conservative course. All our predilections are decidedly in favor of Brunswick; but perceiving the danger to which it is exposed, our object has been to excite the proper persons to that immediate action, which promises most for the profit, respectability and stability of the Maine School of Medicine. A resident faculty—one of the number being a good surgical operator—as we before remarked, and as we still think, would greatly assist in ensuring its perpetuity.—ED.]

DEATH BY STRAMONIUM.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—The following statement of facts in reference to a case of the improper and ignorant use of medicine, is at your disposal if you think fit to publish it.

JOHN SPENCE, JR.

Boston, Nov. 26th, 1844.

Thursday evening, Nov. 14th, 1844, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, was called to visit three women, who were said to be in a dangerous condition from the use of some article that they had taken in the course of that evening. It was soon ascertained that they had steeped, as they supposed, about 5 ss. of hoarhound in a pint of water for a slight cold; but the herb proved to be stramonium, which had been prescribed a few weeks before to be smoked in a pipe for asthma, and they had each of them taken a portion of this deadly infusion.

It may be well in the commencement to sketch briefly each patient. **M—L** was upwards of 60 years, previous health feeble and delicate. **J—L** was the daughter of the first mentioned. Age about 30; constitution good. **E—B** was upwards of 80 years, and naturally of a very vigorous constitution. Had suffered a short period before from bronchitis, but was nearly convalescent. The two eldest were widows.

Appearances.—They lie in bed stupid, with a muttering delirium, unable to articulate a single word. There is a certain and peculiar wildness of countenance. Their faces are flushed. Pupils much dilated. Conjunctivæ highly injected, with a total insensibility of pupils. Lips and tongue parched. *No vomiting.* Breathing at times stertorous, and labored. Hands cold, with a trembling and slightly convulsive movement. Great rigidity of the muscles of the neck and back. At times active efforts at utterance.

For the space of three hours at intervals, various antidotes were resorted to, as ipecac. combined with sulph. zincii, tartarized antimony, sulphate of copper, mustard and water, saläratus and vinegar, draughts of warm water, tickling of the fauces. The various combinations employed produced but little effect. Stimulants were then substituted, as a solution of carbonate of ammonia, a strong infusion of green tea, &c., apparently with some beneficial effect. Their use was continued at intervals.

CASE I.—M—L. Friday, 3 o'clock, A. M. There is a decided improvement. Can raise herself in bed, but mutters. Friday morning, 9 o'clock.—Is conscious, though there is a wildness in her looks. Pupils are dilated. Talks at times coherently, and then wanders. A purgative was ordered each patient. Saturday morning.—Complains of soreness of the throat and fauces. Has a loose rattling cough, with some expectoration. Mucilaginous drinks were ordered. Having survived the immediate effects of the poison, the chances of her recovery seemed favorable; but she continued to droop gradually, and, apparently without any suffering, life fled the following morning.

CASE II.—J—L, the daughter, was the least affected. Could sit up, but was unable to stand, and resembled one intoxicated. Her symptoms were somewhat of an hysterical character. Friday, 3 o'clock, A. M.—Is conscious, speaks distinctly and seems aware of her condition. Friday morning, 6 o'clock.—Pupils continue dilated. Saturday morning, has quite recovered.

An incident in her case is perhaps worthy remark. She is a seamstress by trade, and is much occupied in sewing. At times, when under the influence of the poison, would seem to herself to be engaged in her usual avocation; and thus would thread the needle, tie the knot at the end, and imitate in every respect the routine of procedure of one thus engaged.

CASE III.—E—B drank the most freely of the infusion, and her symptoms were the most alarming. The wildness of countenance in her case was very striking, and almost startling. Pupils very much dilated, and totally insensible. Friday, 3 o'clock, A. M., but little if any

improvement. Friday morn, 9 o'clock.—Is conscious, though the wildness continues. Pupils are considerably dilated. Is much excited, talks thickly and articulates with difficulty. Saturday morning.—Is better, though complains of great soreness and dryness of throat. Has improved slowly since that period. Has at present some hoarseness of voice and a cough, for which she is under treatment.

Remarks.—A striking fact, and one deserving of attention, was the entire absence of emesis, as an effect of the stramonium; and the seeming impossibility to produce an emetic effect. This tendency is ascribed to it by medical writers. Thus, Wood and Bache (see U. S. Dispensatory) state that smoking the leaves of stramonium is sometimes attended with nausea, and that when taken in poisonous doses, it causes nausea and vomiting. Pereira, in his *Materia Medica*, states that stramonium in moderate doses excites nausea. Orfila, when speaking of the effects of belladonna, stramonium, foxglove, &c., when taken in poisonous doses, enumerates, among other symptoms, retchings and obstinate vomitings. He states, "that stramonium is very poisonous; a decoction of the fruit or seeds has been known to produce the most furious delirium, convulsions, palsy, tremblings, and even death."

Christison relates a case of poisoning in a man, where eighteen or twenty grains of the extract of stramonium were taken by mistake for the extract of sarsaparilla. As there are some points in that case analogous to the present, it may not be amiss to cite it. He holds the following language in regard to it. "The symptoms were dryness of the throat immediately afterwards, then giddiness, dilated pupils, flushed face, glancing of the eyes, and incoherence, so that he seemed to his friends to be intoxicated, and subsequently there was incessant incoherent talking, like that of demency. Emetics were given without effect, and there was little amendment obtained from bloodletting, leeches to the temples, cold to the head, or purgatives. But after a glass of strong lemonade, vomiting took place. The symptoms began to recede, and in ten hours he recognized those around him."

Another point worthy of remark, was the active efforts at utterance, and as a consequence the confused jargon, which was made at intervals. Did it arise from nervous excitement? The long-continued dilatation of the pupils, and the peculiar aspect of wildness in each patient, were also remarkable.

The physicians in attendance were Drs. H. G. Clark, E. D. G. Palmer, and the writer.

The above is but one of the many melancholy instances, that too frequently occur from ignorance in regard to the virtues of particular medicines. If this statement shall effect any good by way of caution to the community, it will not fail of its intended design.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.**BOSTON, DECEMBER 4, 1844.**

Relief for Widows and Orphans of Physicians.—In the city of New York, a society exists for providing for the necessities of the widows and orphans of deceased physicians, which is creditable to those who constitute the association. The same plan has been suggested in Boston, but no action has yet taken place. Last week, the members of the New York society dined together, and made the anniversary the occasion of exchanging civilities, and uttering sentiments, highly flattering to the liberality of the profession. Their funds already amount to \$2500, and there are 60 active members, embracing some of the best medical talent in the city. Dr. Delafield, the president, after some prefatory observations, concluded a sensible, appropriate speech, in the following words.

" You know most of our profession with difficulty support themselves; that the number of those who have done more than this is but limited compared with the numbers of our profession. We, then, who are in apparent prosperity, cannot tell but that our orphans may be dependent upon this support. Even among those who have been able to accumulate a support, after a change of circumstances (particularly in this city) the vicissitudes of a minute have been able to prostrate the prosperity of years. I have known an old man of 70, who by long saving had been able to accumulate a support for his old age. I have known him deprived of the fruits of his labors, and, old and bent down, have seen him recommence the practice which he had almost entirely laid aside. I have seen the man of middle age die and leave the field, when he was earning fame and fortune.

" Instances of this description are frequent in a profession like ours, and I have lived in this city long enough to have witnessed many such transactions. The only wonder is, not how a society should exist, but that it should have been delayed so long; but I am satisfied that everything in your power will be done, and that it only remains for you to strive to add to its members, and thereby to increase the funds.

" The manner in which our Society has moved in this object, is peculiarly favorable for action, for though I have lived in this city for thirty years, I have never seen it so much at harmony with itself. If there be any ill feeling in the profession, I am unaware of it; and this state of harmony exists, though we have two rival colleges in the full tide of success, and though many of us can remember the day when the profession was rent entirely with disputes. Now the very opposite of this exists, and the utmost harmony and union exists among us. If there be strife, I am unaware of it. True, there is professional emulation, but no undue jealousy."

Ancient Egyptian Crania.—From the proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, for October, it appears that Dr.

Morton has communicated an exceedingly interesting paper on Egyptian skulls of ancient date. His ethnographical analysis, as usual, is both instructive and exciting. He is certainly without a competitor in deciphering races from the sepulchral ruins of primeval ages. Dr. Morton has received seventeen skulls, it appears, since the completion of his work on *Ancient Egyptian Crania*—which, added to those furnished him by Geo. R. Gliddon, Esq., the learned hierologist, make one hundred and seventeen. This, therefore, is the rarest collection of the kind in America. In all, there are six hundred skulls in Dr. Morton's cabinet—all rare, and valuable. By way of illustrating this gentleman's method of arriving at conclusions satisfactory to himself, in the science of ethnography, we intend transferring a part of the paper to which these remarks refer, to the pages of the Journal.

In connection with this subject, we ought not to forget the important service which Mr. Gliddon, late American Consul at Egypt, now in Boston, has rendered to science and letters. Those who have been so fortunate as to hear him unravel the mysteries of Egyptian history, and expound the laws and illustrate the character of institutions that existed in the valley of the Nile, centuries before the birth of Abraham, feel under a weight of obligation to him. He is learned without ostentation; forcible, clear, and always instructive. Wherever Mr. Gliddon may sojourn, we urgently commend him to the attentions of those who delight to honor such as enlarge the sphere of human knowledge.

Pay of Druggists' Clerks.—Practitioners of medicine and druggists appear to have demanded an unusual share of legal attention, of late, in the city of New York. As the case here appended gives a glimpse behind the scenes, it is transferred to the Journal to illustrate the history of the times. It may be more useful to some annalist in a succeeding generation, than of immediate consequence to this. It proves the fact, however, that there is a starving policy even amongst druggists and apothecaries.

"In the Court of Common Pleas, Joseph L. Shafer *vs.* John and Theodore Cornell.—Action to recover \$365 for a year's wages of plaintiff's son in the medical office of Drs. Cornell, corner of Avenue D and Fourth street, less \$140 allowed for money received and for board. It is contended that the \$140 is full compensation for the lad, who was 17 years of age, and had been one year at the drug business previous to going with defendants. His duties were to put up prescriptions for defendants, and to stay in the office from 7 o'clock in the morning till 10 at night, and till 2 o'clock on Sundays. To show that the compensation had been ample in proportion to what other young men got in the same business, several druggists gave testimony; from which it appeared that the salary given to clerks in druggists' stores is very small. Mr. Delluc (firm of Souillard & Delluc), testified that the sum already paid to the young man is abundantly large. His firm have at present a young man who came to them with a good knowledge of the business, and is every way competent, and to whom they give \$12 a month, or \$3 a week, without board. Another gentleman (Mr. Wier), testified that he has a clerk in his employment who is 35 years of age, and has been at the business twenty-one years, and to whom he pays \$5 a week, &c. Other testimony was pretty much to the same effect."

Cold-water Punishment in Prisons.—This modern torture requires looking after by benevolent prison visitors. Matters will certainly be carried to extremes if this showering process to subdue obdurate prisoners is not inquired into at once by a humane and enlightened public. In the Auburn State Prison there happens to be a man in authority, with a spark of humanity in his soul—and this is what he says. "Soon after the present keeper came into office, he became satisfied from observation and from the representation of the physician, that showering with cold water, in the way it has been practised here, and when continued long enough and in the mode to make an efficient punishment, was injurious to health, and he has therefore, with the approbation of the inspectors, caused it to be discontinued." Dr. Theodore Dinion, the physician of the institution, deserves the thanks of the public for his independence in regard to this refined inquisitorial torture. "Immediately after entering upon the duties of physician," he says, "I made the subject of punishment with cold water, a matter of thorough investigation, and came to the conclusion that when managed so as to form an efficient means of punishment, it would be dangerous to health and life."

This is only the beginning of an effort to show the cruelty and wickedness that is rife in prisons, where the incarcerated wretches are too often made to feel the tyranny of their fellow men, when clothed with brief authority.

Formation of Medical Character—Dr. Harrison's Address.—To some kind, but unknown, friend, we are indebted for a copy of an introductory lecture delivered at the Medical College of Ohio, Nov. 14th, by John P. Harrison, M.D., on the formation of medical character. His system of medical morality is excellent, and were it universally extended, felt and lived up to, what a paradise would be the residence of physicians. We should not be afraid to place a son under Prof. Harrison's charge, after reading this very satisfactory production, though we never saw the man—which is the highest compliment we can pay him.

Medical Matters in Kentucky.—Notwithstanding the rumors and efforts put forth by enemies to injure the Transylvania Medical School at Lexington, we hear things are going on prosperously there, and no one ever thought otherwise but those envious of its celebrity. At Louisville, too, the school is well sustained. All this only shows that just so long as Kentucky maintains the high reputation she now enjoys for educating intelligent, skilful surgeons and physicians, all the rival institutions in that region of country cannot circumscribe her influence, or prevent the annual increase of students.

Cause of Milk Sickness.—A Mr. Joel Foster, of Edwardsville, Illinois, believes he has discovered the cause of the metaxicum—or, as it is improperly termed, milk sickness of the west. He ascertained that water drank from a certain locality, produced the much-dreaded disease, both in himself and in cattle. On further examination, the opinion prevails that arsenic, from some cause, abounds at that particular region, which being mixed with the water used, has been the cause of this new and fearful

malady. From an article in the Nauvoo Neighbor, it seems that Dr. John H. Wier, of Edwardsville, gives countenance to Mr. Foster's suggestion. Further explorations are contemplated, and the public will soon have the benefit of all the facts that may be brought to light.

Use of Quinine in Siam.—Dr. Bradley says, "It may be truly said that every house in Bangkok is open to receive us. On the day the steamer sailed, I was summoned to visit the brother of the Praklang, for the purpose of prescribing for him; he was sick with the intermittent fever. He and many others of noble rank have learned the power of quinine, and will have it at all events. It does truly work wonders here in the cure of intermittents. This one article is giving us more fame than all our other medicines or medical practice. It is only within the last year that they have begun to credit what we have told them of its virtues. They now wonder at their former incredulity."

Medical Miscellany.—A strong manifestation of displeasure is exhibited against Sir James Graham's medical reform bill, in England.—Professor Liebig has gone home from England, to lecture at the University of Giessen.—In the New York Court of Common Pleas, Dr. King brought an action to recover \$250, a balance asserted to be due for medical attendance on the daughter of W. Hathaway, but the verdict for plaintiff was only \$50.—In every 100 persons who die in Paris, 50 are native Parisians, 4 from the country, 41 from other counties in France, and 3 from abroad. In the same city, there are 31,016 unmarried and 3,363 married persons.—Dr. Morton, of Philadelphia, lately received from Dr. Goheen, an extensive series of skulls of mammiferous animals, from Western Africa, among which, is a supposed new species of hippopotamus.—A public meeting was lately held in London, the Mayor presiding, to consider the subject of establishing public baths and wash-houses for the poor. Subscription lists were opened.—A public dinner was given to Prof. Liebig in Glasgow on the 11th of October. About three hundred noblemen and gentlemen, it is said, were present.—There is a society in London for the relief of widows and orphans of medical men.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—An interesting case of strangulation of the colon by the meso-colon, has been received from Dr. Davis, of Portland.

MARRIED.—At Colchester, Conn., Dr. B. D. Dean, of Fall River, Mass., to Miss S. T. Rogers.—At Ashtabula, Ohio, Stephen F. Selby, M.D., of Wilmoughby, to Miss S. A. Fiske.

DIED.—At Saratoga, N. Y., Dr. A. C. Birchard, by suicide, in consequence, it is supposed, of losing all his property by a recent fire.—In Roxbury, John Bartlett, M.D., 81.—At Oswego, N. Y., Dr. Lucas Van Schaack, 50, exceedingly lamented by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.—In Concord, Mass., Dr. Isaac Hurd, 88.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Nov. 30, 39—Males, 21; Females, 18. Stillborn, 6. Of consumption, 4—inflammation of the lungs, 3—croup, 3—dropsey on the brain, 4—typhus fever, 1—scarlet fever, 4—gravel, 1—infantile, 4—palsy, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 2—tumor, 1—brain fever, 1—lung fever, 1—disease of the heart, 1—canker rash, 1—sudden, 1—quinsy, 1—dropsey on the heart, 1—old age, 2, unknown, 2.

Under 5 years, 16—between 5 and 20 years, 5—between 20 and 60 years, 13—over 60 years, 5.

Foreign Bodies in the Rectum.—M. Maisonneuve related to the “Société Medico Pratique,” the case of a man—a patient of M. Cloquet’s—who had introduced a tumbler into his rectum. In order to extract it, M. Cloquet dilated the anus with six fingers, which being insufficient to dilate it to the required extent, MM. Maisonneuve and Huguier, who were present, each added four fingers. The fourteen fingers enlarged the anal surface to such a degree, as to allow the tumbler to be seen. The bottom of the tumbler was directed upwards, and the open part downwards. The man was then told to bear down, as if for defæcation, and the glass was expelled. This case is a most remarkable example of the extent to which the anus may be dilated, without injury to the sphincters.

A few weeks previous, M. Cloquet had had under his care another individual, who had introduced a Flemish beer-glass (shaped like our champagne glasses) into his rectum. The glass was seized with forceps, but broke into many pieces. In order to get the lower part out, it was found necessary to turn it, as the open broken part was turned downwards. The man died in the course of a few days.

M. Thierry narrated a case which occurred to Dupuytren. A man had introduced a square preserve-pot into the rectum, the open part being superior. Dupuytren seized hold of the rim by means of a blunt hook covered with chamois leather, and thus extracted it.—*Gaz. des Hopitaux*.

Vesicular Polypus of Os Uteri.—“Dr. Montgomery observed to the Dublin Pathological Society, that the mode of growth of this polypus was peculiar; it consisted in an enlargement of the muciferous glands near the os uteri. It has been remarked that the polypus rarely exists alone, there being usually another high up within the uterus, but in this case there was but the one. There is often great difficulty in extirpating polypi of this kind, either by excision or ligature; in such cases Dr. Montgomery has found that they may frequently be destroyed by strong astringent solutions introduced through a bent glass tube, so as to be applied directly to the morbid growth. He had met with one case where this was successfully effected, but in which the patient had ultimately fallen a victim to another uterine disease; both in that case and the present the patients were unmarried, and there was atrophy or non-development of the ovaria, which, in this instance, were not larger than those of a child three years old.”—*Dublin Journal*.

Abscesses of the Liver in Algeria.—A letter to the Academy from M. Ferrin, army-surgeon in Algeria, contains the following statement: “The intermittent, remittent, and continued fevers, which attack the inhabitants of Algeria, at first disturb the entire economy, without affecting any particular organ. If the attack persist or return, it is followed by congestions and hypertrophies of the viscera, especially of the lungs, the spleen, and the liver; thus it is evident that these accidents are the effects, and not the causes, of the vital reaction. Abscesses often form in the liver, as in the East Indies. We have had twenty illustrations of this pathological fact during the present year. In one case an abscess opened into the bronchi; the patient having died, the progress of cicatrization was found to be considerably advanced in the liver.”—*London Lancet*.